

Applic. No. 10/689,973

Amdt. dated August 31, 2005

Reply to Office action of June 17, 2005

Claim Amendments

This listing of the claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A sheet-processing machine, comprising:

a blast or blown-air supply system; and

a pneumatic sheet-guiding device connected to said blast or blown-air supply system;

said sheet-guiding device having flow ducts for aligning sheet-carrying air flows;

said sheet-guiding device having a sheet-guiding surface;

said sheet-guiding surface having air passage openings formed therein for sheets being dragged over said air passage openings in a sheet travel direction and for expelling said sheet-carrying air flows during operation;

said air passage openings in said sheet-guiding surface forming opening cross-sections of said flow ducts, said

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opening cross-sections being slots having a length and a width, said length being ~~many~~ multiple times greater than said width.

Claim 2 (original): The machine according to claim 1, further comprising guide vanes provided in said flow ducts.

Claim 3 (original): The machine according to claim 1, wherein said slots are disposed symmetrically with respect to a line of symmetry.

Claim 4 (currently amended): The machine according to claim 1, wherein said air passage openings ~~are~~ include waste-air openings assigned to said slots.

Claim 5 (original): The machine according to claim 4, wherein said waste-air openings are waste-air slots.

Claim 6 (original): The machine according to claim 4, wherein said waste-air openings, on a side of said sheet-guiding device facing away from said sheet-guiding surface, are in communication with the atmosphere.

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Claim 7 (original): The machine according to claim 4, further comprising a vacuum generator for acting upon said waste-air openings.

Claim 8 (currently amended): The machine according to claim 1, wherein said air passage openings ~~are~~ include purging air openings for discharging purging air flows, said purging air openings being disposed in regions wherein said sheet-carrying air flows produce a vacuum when purging air flows are lacking.

Claim 9 (currently amended): The machine according to claim 1, wherein said air passage openings ~~are~~ include supporting-air openings for discharging supporting air flows, said supporting-air openings being disposed in regions wherein said sheet-carrying air flows produce maximum vacuum when supporting air flows are lacking.

Claim 10 (original): The machine according to claim 1, wherein said slots are inclined with respect to said sheet travel direction.

Claim 11 (original): The machine according to claim 1, wherein said slots are oriented in said sheet travel direction.

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Claim 12 (original): The machine according to claim 1,
wherein said slots have a width varying along the length
thereof.

Claim 13 (original): The machine according to claim 1,
wherein said slots have a variable width.

Claim 14 (original): The machine according to claim 1,
wherein said slots are respectively disposed repeatedly on
both sides of a line of symmetry extending in said sheet
travel direction, said line of symmetry having a central
location with respect to said sheet guiding surface.

Claim 15 (original): The machine according to claim 14,
wherein said slots have different lengths.

Claim 16 (original): The machine according to claim 1,
wherein said blast-air supply system has chambers respectively
communicating with said slots.

Claim 17 (original): The machine according to claim 1,
further comprising a multiple configuration of said slots to
be acted upon individually with blast air.

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Claim 18 (original): The machine according to claim 1, further comprising waste-air openings and blowers assigned to said slots and having suction sides communicating with said waste-air openings and pressure sides communicating with said slots.

Claim 19 (original): The machine according to claim 2, further comprising throttles or restrictors disposed in said flow ducts.

Claim 20 (original): The machine according to claim 19, wherein said throttles or restrictors are formed of air-permeable material.

Claim 21 (currently amended): A rotary printing press, comprising:

a blast or blown-air supply system; and

a pneumatic sheet-guiding device connected to said blast or blown-air supply system;

said sheet-guiding device having flow ducts for aligning sheet-carrying air flows;

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said sheet-guiding device having a sheet-guiding surface;

said sheet-guiding surface having air passage openings formed therein for sheets being dragged over said air passage openings in a sheet travel direction and for expelling said sheet-carrying air flows during operation of the rotary printing press;

said air passage openings in said sheet-guiding surface forming opening cross-sections of said flow ducts, said opening cross-sections being slots having a length and a width, said length being many multiple times greater than said width.